

# Causes of World War One

## Annotation:

The causes of World War One had been building up for many years. In June of 1914, the assassination of Franz Ferdinand unleashed international conflict which led to the beginning of WWI.

## Complete these steps:

1. Read “Causes of World War One”, **Handout 1**.
2. Use the notes on “Causes of World War One”, Handout 1, to summarize causes on “Causes of World War One Chart”, **Handout 2**.
3. Use your textbook p. **xxxx** to research answers to the questions on “World War I: The War Begins”, **Handout 3**.
4. When you understand the causes of World War One, complete “**World War I Quiz**”.

## Hand-in the following to your teacher:

1. “Causes of World War I Chart”, Handout 2 chart
2. Answers to questions on “World War I: The War Begins”, Handout 3
3. Answers to “World War I Quiz”

# Student Handout 1

## Causes of World War I

1. Nationalism:
  - a. Definition - having an **extreme** pride in your country
  - b. Prior to WWI many European countries felt an extreme sense of nationalism
  - c. This nationalism resulted in a dislike for other countries
2. Imperialism:
  - a. Definition - empire building – take over other countries for your own
  - b. Prior to WWI many European countries wanted to expand their empire which resulted in hostilities
  - c. Much of the colonization occurred in Africa and the Middle East
  - d. The main competition was between Germany, England, Italy and France
  - e. This was largely due to a need for new resources for the economy (and new people to sell things to)
3. Militarism:
  - a. Building up arms and armies
  - b. Prior to WWI many European countries believed in having a strong military
4. Alliance System:
  - a. Developing alliances or friendships with other countries
  - b. Prior to WWI many European countries did not trust one another so they looked for 'friends' that they could trust
  - c. The two main alliances were:
    - i. **Triple Alliance** – Germany, Italy, Austria-Hungary
    - ii. **Triple Entente** – Britain (and its colonies, e.g., Canada, Australia), France, Russia, Serbia

### Provoking Incident:

#### Assassination of Arch Duke Franz Ferdinand (Austrian-Hungarian)

- June 28, 1914 – in Sarajevo, Bosnia - On June 28, 1914, Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria, who was on a royal trip to Bosnia (who Austria-Hungary controlled) was shot dead by Bosnian/Serb assassins. The Archduke was assassinated because the majority of Bosnians/Serbs disliked Austro-Hungarian control of that largely Serbian area.
- This was the spark that began the war:
  - Austria-Hungary blamed Serbia for the assassination and presented them with an ultimatum which would result in an attack if Serbia did not comply
  - Russia came to Serbia's aid – alliance system
  - Germany came to Austria-Hungary's aid – alliance system
  - France sides with Russia – alliance system
  - Britain remain temporarily neutral

## Student Handout 2

Read Handout 1 “Causes of World War One” and fill in this worksheet using point form notes.

### 2. Alliance System

### 1. Militarism

Causes of World War One  
Causes of World War One

### 3. Imperialism

### 4. Nationalism

### The Spark and The final out break of War – August 1914

Austrian Hungarian Archduke Franz Ferdinand was assassinated by a Serbian terrorist on June 28, 1914 in city of Sarajevo. Serbians refused an ultimatum. Serbia asked help from its friend Russia. Russia allied with Britain and France. By August, war broke out between the two alliances.

### MANIA:

- **M**ilitarism
- **A**lliance: Triple Entente (Allies) & Triple Alliance (Central Powers)
- **N**ationalism
- **I**mperialism
- **A**ssassination of Archduke F. Ferdinand: on June 28, 1914, sparked the war

# Evaluation

## World War I Quiz

NAME:

TOTAL:     /50

---

### **Matching**

Please read the following items carefully, and match column B to the items in column A by placing letters in the appropriate blanks:

#### **Column A:**

- \_\_\_1. Assassinated
- \_\_\_2. France
- \_\_\_3. Britain
- \_\_\_4. Imperialism
- \_\_\_5. Nationalism
- \_\_\_6. Russia (2 letters)
- \_\_\_7. Arms Race
- \_\_\_8. Sarajevo.
- \_\_\_9. Germany

#### **Column B:**

- a. Serbia-s friend.
- b. Triple Entente
- c. Great Pride in your country
- d. Buildup of new modern weapons.
- e. Triple Alliance.
- f. Franz Ferdinand.
- g. City where assassination took place.